

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment, and reconsideration of this application, as amended are respectfully requested.

The undersigned gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the telephone interview of December 13, 2010. The Examiner agrees that Figure 10 of the present claimed invention shows the limitation of "concavely formed", i.e., "bows outward", whereas claim 26 claims a convex form. Since the cited reference Adler only teaches a concave grid, the Examiner agrees to remove Alder as a reference. Claim 26 is also amended in accordance with the agreement reached between the undersigned and the Examiner during the telephone interview. The term "convexly formed" is changed with the term "bows inward" to make language clearer.

Claim 36 is amended to fix a typographical error. No new matter has been introduced.

Since none of the cited references teaches or suggests the limitation of "bows inward", all the obviousness rejections should be withdrawn.

During the telephone interview, the Examiner is of the opinion that if the extraction grid bows inward, the plasma beam would not be divergently formed, but be convergently formed. Applicants respectfully disagree.

A "divergent" plasma beam is clearly defined in the specification. As stated in paragraph [0026], "a divergent plasma beam is to be understood as a plasma beam which markedly radiates in at least one direction perpendicular to the main direction of radiation." In other words, divergent does not mean the opposite to "convergent", but means "in diverse directions" or "deviate from the main direction of radiation."

Therefore, the wording of "bows inward" does not contradict the term "divergently formed."

In view of the foregoing, allowance is believed proper.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-RPP-202-US (10510421).

Dated: February 28, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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